

affordable for the self-employed by letting them deduct 100 percent of their health premiums in 2000—three years ahead of schedule. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Democrats bill, S. 6, would increase health insurance premiums an average 6.1 percent which would force 1.8 million to 1.9 million Americans to lose their health coverage. This bill will also lower household wages an average of \$207 annually, and would eliminate 194,000 jobs by 2003.

I am firmly behind a bill in the United States that will provide consumer protections and enhanced health care quality, while keeping insurance affordable and actually expanding access to insurance for millions of Americans.

Under the Republican bill, the patients have the right to talk freely and openly with their doctors about all treatment options and the right to see the doctor of their choice. Even more important, they have the right to a quick and cost-free appeals process if a health plan refuses to cover treatment.

The Republican bill does all these things, and also expands opportunity for millions of uninsured Americans to come into the health care system. We offer tax-free medical savings accounts to all, and extend tax equity to self-employed individuals.

Mr. President, the Republican Patients' Bill of Rights Plus makes sure all Americans have the access and protections they need and want. Americans deserve access to the best doctors and specialists available; reliable information about their doctors and their health plans, and affordable, quality care at every stage of life. This week, I will work to make sure Congress addresses these important issues with a plan that puts you, not a bureaucrat, in control of your health care.

I thank the chair.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order of June 15, 1999, the Senate having received from the House of Representatives the bill H.R. 2465, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 2465 is stricken, and the text of S. 1205, as amended, is inserted in lieu thereof.

Under the previous order, H.R. 2465 is read the third time, and passed, and the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

The bill (H.R. 2465), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on H.R. 2465, and the Chair is authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. BURNS, Mrs. HUTCHISON of Texas, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KYL, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. INOUE, and Mr.

BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 1205

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, passage of S. 1205 is vitiated, and the bill is indefinitely postponed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 13, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,625,005,258,555.97 (Five trillion, six hundred twenty-five billion, five million, two hundred fifty-eight thousand, five hundred fifty-five dollars and ninety-seven cents).

One year ago, July 13, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,528,489,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-eight billion, four hundred eighty-nine million).

Five years ago, July 13, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,624,337,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred twenty-four billion, three hundred thirty-seven million).

Ten years ago, July 13, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,800,206,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred billion, two hundred six million).

Fifteen years ago, July 13, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,534,369,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred thirty-four billion, three hundred sixty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,090,636,258,555.97 (Four trillion, ninety billion, six hundred thirty-six million, two hundred fifty-eight thousand, five hundred fifty-five dollars and ninety-seven cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 916. An act to make technical amendments to section 10 of title 9, United States Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2465. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1569. An act to prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the development of ground elements of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia unless that deployment is specifically authorized by law; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution urging the Congress and the President to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program and existing Campus-Based Aid Programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read twice and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1654. An act to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4191. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Performance Standard for Diagnostic X-ray Systems; Amendment" (Docket No. 98N-0877), received July 13, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4192. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to the Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998, the annual report dated July 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4193. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans;